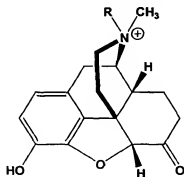


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound having the Formula I:



I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R is C₁₋₆ alkyl.

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein R is C₁₋₄ alkyl.
3. The compound of claim 2, wherein R is methyl or ethyl.
4. The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound is N-methylhydromorphone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
5. The compound of claim 4, wherein said compound is hydromorphone methiodide.
6. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising one or more compounds as claimed in claim 1, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
7. The composition of claim 6, comprising from about 5 mg to about 350 mg of said one or more compounds.

8. A method of treating a disorder responsive to the excitation of μ opioid receptors in a mammal suffering therefrom, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.

9. A method of treating, ameliorating or preventing pain in a mammal suffering therefrom, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the method is for treating, preventing or ameliorating chronic pain.

11. The method of claim 9 or claim 10, comprising administering the compound orally at a dose of about 0.1 to about 5 mg/kg, or an equivalent amount of the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, of the body weight of the mammal being treated every 4 hours.